



IFW 2874

PTO/SB/21 (09-06)

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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/575,128	
	Filing Date	July 25, 2006	
	First Named Inventor	Richard MENDEL et al.	
	Art Unit	2874	
	Examiner Name	Unassigned	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission		Attorney Docket Number	0904-010

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT			
Firm Name	Potomac Patent Group PLLC		
Signature			
Printed name	Steven M. duBois		
Date	January 5, 2007	Reg. No.	35,023

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING			
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Typed or printed name	Steven M. duBois	Date	January 5, 2007

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Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 0904-010

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
Richard MENDEL et al. ) Group Art Unit: 2874  
Application No.: 10/575,128 ) Examiner: Unassigned  
Filed: July 25, 2006 )  
For: AUTOMATIC CURRENT )  
SELECTION FOR SINGLE FIBER )  
SPLICING )

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

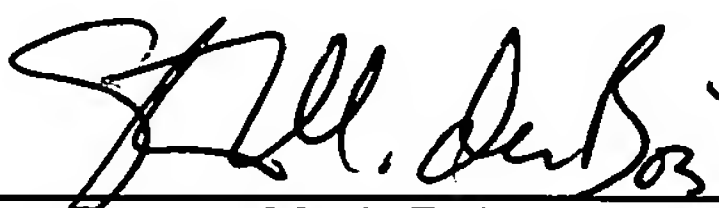
Applicants submit herewith PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B - Information Disclosure Statement together with any required copies of patents, publications or other information of which Applicants are aware, which Applicants believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

A copy of the International Search Report in which these documents were cited is also attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits and therefore no fee is required.

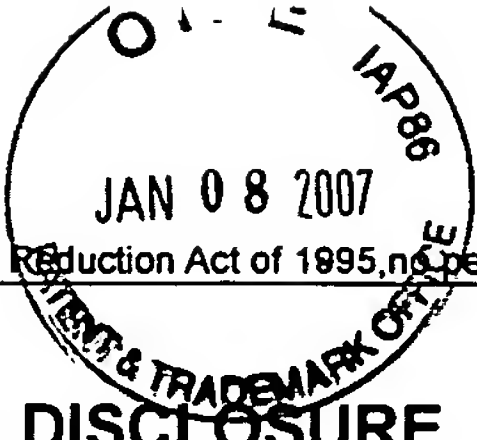
It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

Respectfully submitted,  
POTOMAC PATENT GROUP PLLC

By:   
Steven M. duBois  
Registration No. 35,023

Date: January 5, 2007

Potomac Patent Group PLLC  
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Fredericksburg, VA 22404  
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**  
(Use as many sheets as necessary)**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/575,128
Filing Date	July 25, 2006
First Named Inventor	Richard MENDEL et al.
Art Unit	2874
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket No.	0904-010

Sheet 1 of 2

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		U.S. 5,909,527	06/01/1999	ZHENG	
		U.S. 6,097,426	08/01/2000	ESMAEILI	
		U.S.			
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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		"Country Code" <sup>3</sup> "Number" <sup>4</sup> "Kind Code" <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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				First Named Inventor	Richard MENDEL et al.
				Art Unit	2874
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket No.	0904-010

### NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initials*	Cite No <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		Written Opinion for PCT/SE2004/001442 mailed January 12, 2005	
		International Search Report for PCT/SE2004/001442 mailed January 12, 2005	
		Zheng, W., et al., "Erbium-Doped Fiber Splicing and Splice Loss Estimation," Journal of Lightwave Technology, Vol. 12, No. 3, March 1994, pp. 430-435	
		Katagiri, T., et al., "Direct Core Observation Method Using Thermal Radiation of Silica Fibers with Dopants," Electronics and Communications in Japan, Part 2, Vol. 71, No. 11, 1988, pp. 77-85	

Examiner's Signature		Date Considered	
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